

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A photothermal conversion spectroscopic analysis method ~~having a convergent irradiation step of comprising:~~

convergently irradiating exciting light and detecting light
5 onto a sample ~~using~~ through a same converging lens such that the convergent irradiation of the exciting light produces a thermal lens in the sample; ~~[[,]] and a measurement step of~~

measuring a change in intensity accompanying deflection of the detecting light upon passing through ~~a~~ the thermal lens;
10 ~~produced through the convergent irradiation of the exciting light, characterized in that:~~

wherein the convergently irradiated exciting light and ~~the~~ detecting light ~~convergently irradiated in said convergent irradiation step~~ have respective different frequencies ~~to one~~
15 ~~another;~~ and

wherein the converging lens satisfies a condition that a length of a shift in a focal position of the detecting light from a focal position of the exciting light is in a range of 2 times to 30 times a confocal length at the frequency of the exciting
20 light.

2. (Currently Amended) A photothermal conversion spectroscopic analysis method ~~having a convergent irradiation step of comprising:~~

convergently irradiating exciting light and detecting light
5 onto a sample ~~using~~ through a same converging lens such that the convergent irradiation of the exciting light produces a thermal lens in the sample; [[,]] and ~~a measurement step of~~

measuring a change in intensity accompanying deflection of the detecting light upon passing through ~~a~~ the thermal lens;
10 ~~produced through the convergent irradiation of the exciting light, characterized in that:~~

wherein the convergently irradiated exciting light and detecting light have respective different frequencies ~~to one another;~~ and

15 wherein the converging lens satisfies a condition that a length of a shift in a focal position of the detecting light from a focal position of the exciting light is in a range of 2 times to 25 times a confocal length at the frequency of the exciting light.

3. (Currently Amended) A photothermal conversion spectroscopic analysis method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the converging lens comprises a rod lens.

4. (Currently Amended) A photothermal conversion spectroscopic analysis apparatus comprising:

a converging lens for convergently irradiating both exciting light and detecting light onto a sample such that the convergent irradiation of the exciting light produces a thermal lens in the sample; $[[,]]$ and

measurement means for measuring a change in intensity accompanying deflection of the detecting light upon passing through ~~a~~ the thermal lens; ~~produced through the convergent irradiation of the exciting light, characterized in that:~~

wherein the convergently irradiated exciting light and detecting light have respective different frequencies ~~to one another;~~ and

wherein said converging lens satisfies a condition that a length of a shift in a focal position of the detecting light from a focal position of the exciting light is in a range of 2 times to 30 times a confocal length at the frequency of the exciting light.

5. (Currently Amended) A photothermal conversion spectroscopic analysis apparatus comprising:

a converging lens for convergently irradiating both exciting light and detecting light onto a sample such that the convergent

5 irradiation of the exciting light produces a thermal lens in the
 sample; [[,]] and

 measurement means for measuring a change in intensity
 accompanying deflection of the detecting light upon passing
 through a the thermal lens; ~~produced through the convergent~~
10 ~~irradiation of the exciting light, characterized in that:~~

wherein the convergently irradiated exciting light and
 detecting light have respective different frequencies ~~to one~~
 ~~another~~; and

wherein said converging lens satisfies a condition that a
15 length of a shift in a focal position of the detecting light from
 a focal position of the exciting light is in a range of 2 times
 to 25 times a confocal length at the frequency of the exciting
 light.

6. (Currently Amended) A photothermal conversion
spectroscopic analysis apparatus as claimed in claim 4,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein said converging lens comprises a
rod lens.

7. (Currently Amended) A photothermal conversion
spectroscopic analysis method as claimed in claim 2,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the converging lens comprises a rod
lens.

8. (Currently Amended) A photothermal conversion spectroscopic analysis apparatus as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said converging lens comprises a rod lens.